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# Bowles, Orlando Charles, 1839-1896 (MSS 455)

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### Recommended Citation

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
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*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 455      BOWLES, Orlando Charles, 1839-1896**

1 box. 15 folders. 320 items. 1825-1892. Originals.

1943.18.1

***BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE***

Orlando C. Bowles was born in Sandusky, Ohio in 1839. He was educated at Oberlin College in Ohio, and was employed as a teacher at the time of the outbreak of the Civil War. During the war, Bowles served in the U. S. Army as a captain under Colonel (then Brigadier-General and later President) James A. Garfield. In 1863, while stationed in Pikeville, Kentucky (sometimes referred to in this collection by its earlier name, Piketon), Bowles married Pauline Cecil (1839-1909), the daughter of Judge William Cecil and Elizabeth Ratliff. Pauline had an uncle and a brother who were both named Colbert Cecil.

Orlando Bowles remained in Pikeville after the war, where he farmed, practiced law, and served in the Kentucky House of Representatives from 1867-1871 and 1875-1877. He also traded in timber, which he floated down the Big Sandy and Ohio rivers to market in Cincinnati. Bowles built at least two steamboats and actively promoted the development of the Pikeville community. He and his wife were the parents of five sons.

***COLLECTION NOTE***

This collection consists primarily of correspondence and other personal papers of Orlando C. Bowles. An inventory is in Folder 1. Many of the documents are damaged, faded, or otherwise in poor condition.

Folder 2 contains business and personal correspondence of Orlando C. Bowles. Included are letters from former school friends in Ohio describing their activities, and frequently their work as schoolteachers. Letters written to Bowles during the Civil War (but after he had left military service) include one from a colleague describing the action his Ohio regiment saw in Georgia in 1863; others relate to an attempt to secure a new military command for Bowles in 1864. While Bowles was working in Louisa, Kentucky, letters from his brother-in-law and wife refer, respectively, to a skirmish in Pike County and to support for guerrilla leader John Hunt Morgan as he passed through Prestonsburg, Kentucky. Christopher Murty, who signs as Bowles's "affectionate father," writes from Sandusky County, Ohio of his loyalty to the Democratic Party and his refusal to vote the "black ticket." Letters written to Bowles in 1865

discuss the excitement over oil well development in Kentucky's Big Sandy Valley. Personal correspondence includes letters from his wife's uncle Colbert Cecil, and a joint letter from Fallsburg, Ohio of Nancy E. Balcom, who addresses him as "brother," and another correspondent who signs as "mother."

Folder 3 contains correspondence dealing mostly with Bowles's legal work and trade in timber. An 1867 letter of Bowles to his wife reports on his arrival at the Kentucky House of Representatives in Frankfort and instructs her regarding the care of horses and cattle at home. An 1878 letter from a Cincinnati merchant describes the effect on local banks of the Sherman Resumption Act providing for the redemption of paper currency in gold.

Folder 4 contains correspondence dealing with business and legal matters, including the provision of rafts for Bowles's timber trading. A few letters from newspapers and other supporters refer to his candidacy for a circuit court judgeship in 1880 and to another (unsuccessful) candidacy for office in 1892. Undated letters from Bowles's wife discuss local and domestic matters. Also included are letters from Pauline Bowles to an unnamed son, possibly written to him while he was away at school. Letters written by third parties to Bowles's son Colbert Cecil Bowles (referred to sometimes as "Bigger") relate to his work as a clothing salesman in 1890.

Folders 5 through 8 contain surveys of land, mostly in Pike County, Kentucky. Many of these relate to landholdings of Pauline Bowles's father, William Cecil.

Folder 9 contains legal papers of Orlando Bowles relating to payment of bounties and back pay to Civil War soldiers. Folder 10 contains other miscellaneous papers relating to Bowles's legal practice. Folders 11 and 12 contain various household and business account records of Orlando C. Bowles.

Folder 13 contains materials relating to Pauline Bowles's father and uncle, William Cecil and Colbert Cecil. Most relate to directions to assign land warrants entered in the office of William Cecil as surveyor of Pike County. Directions to Colbert Cecil outline the manner in which he is to self-administer some medication.

Folder 14 contains mostly accounts and receipts of third parties, probably relating to Bowles's legal work. Folder 15 contains miscellaneous printed matter relating to politics and schools, including an 1860 Oberlin College class program, Bowles's certificate as an alternate delegate for Kentucky's 9<sup>th</sup> District to the National Democratic Convention of 1868, an 1870 handbill for the Department of Law and Equity at Washington College, Lexington, Virginia, and a blank application for inspection of a steamboat.

## ***SHELF LIST***

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Orlando C. Bowles</b>	<b>1825-1892</b>	<b>320 items</b>
Folder 1	Inventory & biographical data		7 items
Folder 2	Orlando C. Bowles – Correspondence	1856-1865	46 items
Folder 3	Orlando C. Bowles – Correspondence	1866-1879	42 items
Folder 4	Orlando C. Bowles – Correspondence	1880-1892, n.d.	37 items

Folder 5	Surveys	1825-1843	21 items
Folder 6	Surveys	1847	34 items
Folder 7	Surveys	1850	25 items
Folder 8	Surveys	1851-1861	23 items
Folder 9	Orlando C. Bowles – Civil War soldiers' pay	1864-1869	7 items
Folder 10	Orlando C. Bowles – Miscellaneous legal papers	1838-1880, n.d.	12 items
Folder 11	Orlando C. Bowles – Accounts and receipts	1862-1892	19 items
Folder 12	Orlando C. Bowles – Account books and notebooks	1841-1859	5 items
Folder 13	William and Colbert Cecil – Miscellaneous papers	1843-1869, n.d.	22 items
Folder 14	Correspondence, accounts, receipts of third parties	1853-1878	12 items
Folder 15	Miscellaneous printed matter	1860-1879, n.d.	8 items

### ***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

MSS BOWLES, Orlando Charles, 1825-1892  
455 1839-1896

Correspondence, accounts, land surveys, and miscellaneous business and legal papers of Orlando C. Bowles, a Civil War veteran, lawyer, farmer, and timber trader of Pike County, Kentucky. Includes some material relating to the Cecil family of Floyd and Pike counties.

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## **SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

Arkansas – Travel and description, 1856 F2  
 Balcom, Nancy E. F2  
 Banks and banking – Ohio, 1878 F3  
 Bowles, Colbert Cecil, 1871-1925 – Letters to F4  
 Bowles, Pauline (Cecil), 1839-1909 – Correspondence F2-4  
 Burbridge, Stephen Gano, 1831-1894 – Relating to F2  
 Cecil, Colbert, 1813?-1894 F2,3  
 Cecil, Colbert, 1813?-1894 – Relating to F13  
 Cecil, Colbert, 1837-1896 F2  
 Cecil, Crittenden, 1846-1880 – Letter to F2  
 Cecil, Thomas, 1789-1888 – Letter to F13  
 Cecil, Thomas, 1789-1888 – Relating to F4  
 Cecil, Thomas C., 1831-1866 F2  
 Cecil, William, b. 1803? – Relating to F13  
 Civil War, 1861-1865 – African Americans – Comments about, 1864 F2  
 Civil War, 1861-1865 – Campaigns, battles, military actions – Georgia, 1863 F2  
 Civil War, 1861-1865 – Floyd County – Relating to, 1864 F2  
 Civil War, 1861-1865 – Madison County, Ohio – Relating to, 1864 F2  
 Civil War, 1861-1865 – Pay, allowances, etc., and paymasters, 1864-1869 F9  
 Civil War, 1861-1865 – Pike County – Relating to, 1864 F2  
 Civil War, 1861-1865 – Soldiers from – Ohio F2  
 Civil War, 1861-1865 – Trade, 1864 F2  
 Deeds – Pike County, 1865, 1868 F10  
 Democratic Party – National conventions – New York – Relating to, 1868 F15  
 Farms and farming – Pike County, 1867 F3  
 Lawyers – Pike County  
 Major, Samuel Ire Monger Jr., b. 1830 F3  
 Medicine – Prescriptions and remedies F13  
 Merchants – Catlettsburg, 1890s F4  
 Morgan, John Hunt, 1815-1864 – Relating to F2  
 Murty, Christopher, 1811-1874 F2  
 Oberlin College – Oberlin, Ohio – Relating to, 1860 F15  
 Ohio River – Shipping and trade, 1864-1880 – Relating to F2-4  
 Petroleum industry and trade – Big Sandy Valley – Relating to, 1865 F2  
 Power, John F2  
 Power of attorney – Pike County, 1867 F10  
 Ratliff family – Relating to F10  
 Rogers, Cyrus M. F2  
 Salyer, John P. F4  
 Steamboats – Relating to F15  
 Surveys and surveying – Floyd County, 1825 F13  
 Surveys and surveying – Pike County, 1840-1861 F5-8,13  
 Teachers and teaching – Ohio, 1858-1861 F2  
 Timber – Pike County – Relating to, 1878-1880 F3,4

Washington College – Lexington, Virginia – Relating to F15  
Wilson, Henry, 1812-1875 – Relating to F9

***SEE and SEE ALSO***

Rodgers, Cyrus M.

See also:

Rogers, Cyrus M.

Niedermeier/Jeffrey 04/23/2013